3.1.2 Bird Species of Greatest Conservation Need

3.1.2.1 Overview

There are 284 native bird species for which Wisconsin provides important breeding, wintering, or migratory habitat. Of these 284 species, 84 (30%) have been identified as Species of Greatest Conservation Need in Wisconsin. Twenty-four of these are currently listed as Threatened or Endangered in Wisconsin and two are listed as federally Threatened or Endangered. Species of Greatest Conservation Need are divided into three groups based on their relative abundance in Wisconsin in comparison with the rest of their range. These divisions address the global role Wisconsin plays in the conservation of these species but leave options open for management.

Table 3-2. Bird Species of Greatest Conservation
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American Bittern Botaurus lentiginosus 3-19 Canvasback Aythya valisineria 3-32 Lesser Scaup Aythya affinis 3-35 Bald Eagle Haliaeetus leucocephalus 3-39 Northern Harrier Circus cyaneus 3-41 American Woodcock Scolopax minor 3-82 Black-billed Cuckoo Coccyzus erythropthalmus 3-94 Red-headed Woodpecker Melanerpes erythrocephalus 3-103 Willow Flycatcher Empidonax minimus 3-113 Veery Catharus fuscescens 3-116 Blue-winged Warbler Vermivora pinus 3-120 Blue-winged Warbler Oporornis agilis 3-142 Canada Warbler Wilsonia canadensis 3-146 Field Sparrow Spizella pusilla 3-152 Henslow's Sparrow Ammodramus henslowii 3-158 Bobolink Dolichonyx oryzivorus 3-163 Species with a moderate to low relative abundance in Wisconsin compared with the rest of their range Common Name Scientific Name Page Horned Grebe Podiceps auritus 3-26 American Black Duck Anas rubripes 3-26 Anas rubripes 3-26 Anas rubripes 3-26 Red-head Aythya americana 3-36 Red-head Aythya americana 3-36 Sperce Swand Anas rubripes 3-26 American Black Duck Anas rubripes 3-26 Anerican Black Duck Anas rubripes 3-28 Blue-winged Teal Anas discors 3-30 Aythya americana 3-36 Greater Prairie-Chicken Tympanuchus cupido 3-56 Sharp-tailed Grouse 7ympanuchus phasianellus 3-56 Yellow Rail Cotumicops noveboracensis 3-56	Species with a high relative abundance in Wisconsin compared with				
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Species with a moderate to low relative abundance in Wisconsin compared with the rest of their range continued			
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Whooping Crane	Grus americana	3-60	
American Golden Plover	Pluvialis dominica	3-62	
Solitary Sandpiper	Tringa solitaria	3-66	
Upland Sandpiper	Bartramia longicauda	3-68	
Whimbrel	Numenius phaeopus	3-70	
Hudsonian Godwit	Limosa haemastica	3-72	
Dunlin	Calidris alpina	3-76	
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Tryngites subruficollis	3-78	
Short-billed Dowitcher	Limnodromus griseus	3-80	
Wilson's Phalarope	Phalaropus tricolor	3-84	
Caspian Tern	Sterna caspia	3-86	
Common Tern	Sterna hirundo	3-88	
Forster's Tern	Sterna forsteri	3-90	
Black Tern	Chlidonias niger	3-92	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Coccyzus americanus	3-96	
Short-eared Owl	Asio flammeus	3-99	
Whip-poor-will	Caprimulgus vociferus	3-101	
Black-backed Woodpecker	Picoides arcticus	3-105	
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Contopus cooperi	3-107	
Acadian Flycatcher	Empidonax virescens	3-109	
Boreal Chickadee	Poecile hudsonica	3-115	
Wood Thrush	Hylocichla mustelina	3-118	
Bell's Vireo	Vireo bellii	3-124	
Black-throated Blue Warbler	Dendroica caerulescens	3-130	
Cerulean Warbler	Dendroica cerulea	3-134	
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Worm-eating Warbler	Helmitheros vermivorus	3-137	
Louisiana Waterthrush	Seiurus motacilla	3-138	
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Lark Sparrow	Chondestes grammacus	3-154	
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Le Conte's Sparrow	Ammodramus leconteii	3-160	
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Western Meadowlark	Sturnella neglecta	3-167	
Rusty Blackbird	Euphagus carolinus	3-169	
Red Crossbill	Loxia curvirostra	3-170	
Species with a very low relative with the rest of their range	ve abundance in Wisconsin compa	red	
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Piping Plover	Charadrius melodus	3-64	
Marbled Godwit	Limosa fedoa	3-74	
Barn Owl	Tyto alba	3-97	
Loggerhead Shrike	Lanius Iudovicianus	3-122	
Yellow-throated Warbler	Dendroica dominica	3-132	
Kirtland's Warbler	Dendroica kirtlandii	3-133	

3.1.2.2 General Threats, Issues and Conservation Actions

General Threats and Issues Affecting Bird Species of Greatest Conservation Need

Habitat conversion is the primary threat facing bird Species of Greatest Conservation Need in Wisconsin. For example, continued loss and fragmentation of forest habitat in southern Wisconsin from housing and road development threatens many of our forest dwelling species. Similarly, grassland species suffer from loss and fragmentation of grassland habitat due to factors such as rural housing development and conversion of idle grassland (including pasture) to row crops or tree plantations. Shorebirds that utilize ephemeral mudflats and shallow-flooded fields for resting and feeding sites during spring and fall migration are threatened by the draining of this habitat for agriculture and housing development. Many invasive plant species such as buckthorn, reed canary grass, purple loosestrife and garlic mustard can degrade the quality of important nesting and foraging habitats, while predation by non-native animals such as brown-headed cowbirds and feral cats can negatively impact populations of many species. Contamination of habitats from heavy metals such as lead and chemicals including PCBs and DDT both here and on wintering grounds in Central and South America are well known threats to many species. Changes in ecological processes such as the succession of grassland habitats to shrubland and woodland due to lack of fire or other management to suppress woody growth is a threat to many grassland species. Specific threats and issues for each bird Species of Greatest Conservation Need are listed in the following species summaries.

General Conservation Actions for Bird Species of Greatest Conservation Need

Restoration, management, and protection of grasslands, wetlands, and large blocks of forested habitat are primary actions proposed for conserving bird Species of Greatest Conservation Need in Wisconsin. Additional research is needed to adequately and more effectively work to conserve many species and their habitats. Research needs include surveys to identify critical conservation areas, long term monitoring to detect population trends, and specific projects to determine habitat requirements and impacts of varying habitat management strategies. It is also important to work closely with policy makers to keep agricultural set-aside and wetland restoration programs in place, especially those that allow for permanent protection of habitats, and to support laws and policies that prevent degradation and fragmentation of habitats through activities such as rural home development in large, intact grassland areas. Creating and maintaining effective partnerships of agencies, non-governmental organizations and the public are key to accomplishing many of these conservation actions. Specific conservation actions proposed for each bird Species of Greatest Conservation Need are listed in the following species summaries.

References for Specific Threats, Issues and Conservations Actions for Bird Species of Greatest Conservation Need

The following references, along with personal observations, unpublished data, and Wisconsin DNR technical reports provide background or justification for the specific threats, issues, and conservation actions listed in the following summaries for each bird Species of Greate st Conservation Need.

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